

The invention is defined in the following claims:

1. A method of determining a result of an electronic game in order to allow fixed odds betting on the result,
5 the method comprising:
 providing a mechanical ball draw machine
 configured to draw one ball at a time from a set of balls;
 providing a set of balls to said mechanical ball machine, said set of balls consisting of a plurality of
10 subsets of one or more balls, at least some of the subsets having different numbers of balls and each ball being identifiable as belonging to a subset, whereby the relative numbers of balls in the subsets determine the likelihood of a ball from a subset being drawn thus
15 allowing fixed odds betting to be carried out on a result determined on the basis of subset identity;
 drawing a ball or balls using said mechanical ball machine until sufficient balls have been drawn to enable a result to be determined;
20 identifying the subset to which each said ball or balls belongs; and
 determining the result of said electronic game from the identified subset or subsets.
- 25 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a single ball is drawn and a single subset is identified.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of balls are drawn and a plurality of subsets
30 are identified and the game result is also determined on the basis of the order in which the balls corresponding to the subset are drawn.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein balls are
35 drawn until three different subsets are identified.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

electronic game involves a race having a plurality of participants each of which are allocated one of said subsets of balls, and wherein determining the result involves allocating first position in the race to the
5 participant corresponding to the first subset identified.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said electronic game involves a race having a plurality of participants each of which are allocated one of said
10 subsets of balls, and wherein determining the result involves allocating first position in the race to the participant corresponding to the first subset identified, second position to the participant corresponding to the second subset which is identified, and third position to
15 the third participant corresponding to the third subset which is identified.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising providing an additional mechanical ball machines so that
20 there is a primary mechanical ball machine and a secondary mechanical ball machine, and drawing from both mechanical ball machines substantially simultaneously and using the subsets identified from said primary mechanical ball machine to determine the result unless the primary
25 mechanical ball machine fails and using the subsets identified from said secondary mechanical ball machine to determine the result if the primary mechanical ball machine fails.

30 8. A method as claimed in claim 3, comprising providing at least one additional mechanical ball machine so that there are a plurality of mechanical ball machines, drawing from each of the plurality of mechanical ball machines substantially simultaneously and using the
35 subsets identified by whichever mechanical ball machine first produces the required number of different subset identities to determine the result.

9. Apparatus for determining a result of an electronic game in order to allow fixed odds betting on the result, the apparatus having:

5 a mechanical ball draw machine configured to draw one ball at a time from a set of balls;

a set of balls to be used by said mechanical ball machine, the set of balls consisting of a plurality of subsets of one or more balls, at least some of the subsets
10 having different numbers of balls, each ball being identifiable as belonging to a subset, whereby the relative numbers of balls in the subsets determine the likelihood of a ball from a subset being drawn thus allowing fixed odds betting to be carried out on a result
15 determined on the basis of subset identity; and

a game controlling device configured to control said ball machine to draw a ball or balls until sufficient balls have been drawn to enable a result to be determined, to identify the subset to which each said ball or balls
20 belongs, and to determine the result of said electronic game from the identified subset or subsets.

10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said game controlling device controls said ball machine to draw
25 a single ball whereby a single subset is identified.

11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said game controlling device controls said ball machine to draw a plurality of balls whereby a plurality of different
30 subsets are identified and the game controlling device determines the result on the basis of the order in which the balls corresponding to the subset are drawn.

12. Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said
35 game controlling device controls said ball machine to draw balls are drawn until three different subsets are identified.

13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said electronic game involves a race having a plurality of participants each of which are allocated one of said subsets of balls, and wherein determination of the result by said game controlling device involves allocating first position in the race to the participant corresponding to the first subset identified.
14. Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said electronic game involves a race having a plurality of participants each of which are allocated one of said subsets of balls, and wherein determination of the result by said game controlling device involves allocating first position in the race to the participant corresponding to the first subset identified, second position to the participant corresponding to the second subset which is identified, and third position to the third participant corresponding to the third subset which is identified.
15. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, comprising an additional mechanical ball machines so that there is a primary mechanical ball machine and a secondary mechanical ball machine, and drawing from both mechanical ball machines substantially simultaneously and wherein the game controlling device uses the subsets identified from said primary mechanical ball machine to determine the result unless the primary mechanical ball machine fails and wherein the game controlling device uses the subsets identified from said secondary mechanical ball machine to determine the result if the primary mechanical ball machine fails.
16. Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, comprising at least one additional mechanical ball machine so that there are a plurality of mechanical ball machines, drawing from each of the plurality of mechanical ball machines

substantially simultaneously and wherein said game
controlling device uses the subsets identified by
whichever mechanical ball machine first produces the
required number of different subset identities to
5 determine the result.